

Longbenton Community College



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January 2012

Newsletter

Dear Parents

Can I wish all college families a very Happy New Year. I hope that you have had a good Christmas break and that you will have an excellent 2012.

The college ended last term with a number of outstanding Christmas activities. An excellent carol service was held in St Bartholomew's Church, the Melrose Centre staff and students put on a first class concert with Newcastle Concert Band and all of our musicians came together in a superb Christmas concert in West Theatre. Our students who took part in these events were highly praised for the high quality, polished performances they gave to their audiences.

Indeed, our musicians received even more praise as they participated in a number of events in the region, including performances at Newcastle Civic Centre, North Shields Victorian Market, Cullercoats Primary School (with Backworth Male Voice Choir) and Westmoor Community Centre.

This term begins with a large number of external exams which affects students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13. We also have internal exams for Years 9 and 10 this term, along with parents' evenings for most year groups.

Please do check the list of key dates included in the newsletter, along with our invitation to parents to put themselves forward to join the governing body.

Yours sincerely

J Cockburn
PRINCIPAL



YEAR 7 PARENTS

We had an excellent Year 7 Presentation Afternoon before Christmas and we were pleased that so many parents were able to attend and celebrate the success of our students over their first term with us.

The next meeting for Year 7 parents is on **Monday 16 January at 7pm in West Theatre**. This will be a time when we can share with you advice on how to help your child do even better in both Year 7 and the coming years.

We shall also explain to you the assessment system that we are introducing for Year 7. (For those of you with children further up the school the system we are introducing is different from what we have previously used, and so the talk will be different).

Please do try to attend this important meeting.

YEAR 9 PARENTS

Year 9 students have a busy term ahead of them. They have internal examinations in some of their subjects in the week beginning Monday 6 February. In addition, the P group students have a GCSE maths modular exam on Wednesday 7 March.

Students also have to make choices about subjects they are able to do for GCSE. They will be given advice about the choices they can make during their PSD lessons. We also want to be sure that parents are aware of the choices the students can make. There will be a Key Stage 4 Information Evening for Parents on **Thursday 23 February at 7pm in West Theatre**.

So that parents can consult with individual teachers there will be a parents' evening on **Thursday 22 March at 4.30pm in West Theatre**.

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING FOR YEAR 11 PARENTS AND STUDENTS

One of the big decisions for students in Year 11 is what courses to do next year. For some students the most appropriate options will be doing a course at another college or taking on an apprenticeship. We believe, however, that the best option for most of our students is to stay within the college as a member of the Longbenton Sixth Form and do courses on offer within the North West Cluster of schools.

We are proud of the success of our Sixth Form where students achieve high grades in their A Level subjects and go off to the university courses of their choice. This includes Jack Cottrell, in last year's Year 13, who went off to Christ Church College in Oxford to read history, and Mairead Budge, in our current Year 13, who has a conditional offer to read maths at Peterhouse College in Cambridge.

Students are taught by excellent teachers, most of whom already know them well. The quality of teaching was judged by the Local Authority review team in March 2011 to be outstanding. Our offer of courses is enhanced by joining together with George Stephenson High School and Seaton Burn College to form the North West Cluster.

To find out more, Year 11 parents and students are invited to come to the Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 26 January from 5.15pm to 6.45pm in West Theatre.

KEY DATES SPRING TERM 2012

Monday 9 January	GCSE, AS and A Level examinations begin (Years 10-13)
Monday 16 January	Year 7 Parents' Information Meeting at 7pm in West Theatre
Saturday 21 January	Ski trip departs
Thursday 26 January	Sixth Form Open Evening from 5.15pm to 6.45pm in West Theatre
Saturday 4 February	Student Council Conference in City Learning Centre
Monday 6 February	Year 9 exam week begins
Tuesday 7 February	Music trip to Amsterdam begins
Friday 10 February	College closes for students at 3.10pm
Monday 20 February	College re-opens for students
Thursday 23 February	Year 10 examinations begin
Thursday 23 February	Year 9 Key Stage 4 Parents' Information Meeting at 7pm in West Theatre
Tuesday 28 February	Year 11 Parents' Evening at 4.30pm in West Wing
Thursday 1 March	GCSE, AS and A Level examinations begin (Years 9-13)
Friday 2 March	Art trip to Paris departs
Monday 5 March	Year 8 Informed Choices Evening at 7pm in West Theatre
Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 March	Drama Production in West Theatre
Monday 19 March	Year 8 exam week begins
Thursday 22 March	Year 10 Work Experience Week begins
Friday 30 March	Year 9 Parents' Evening at 4.30pm in West Wing
Monday 16 April	College closes for students at 3.10pm
Tuesday 17 April	Teacher Training Day
	College opens for students

YEAR 8 PARENTS

We have now started to give Year 8 students choices of subjects for them to take in Year 9. To explain the options available to parents we are planning to hold a Parents' Information Evening for Year 8 parents on **Monday 5 March at 7pm in West Theatre.**

Students in Year 8 will be having their examination week in the week beginning Monday 19 March.

PARENT GOVERNORS

We have 2 vacancies for parent governors at the present time. Being a parent governor is an important position as you will be part of a group that works with the Principal to make major decisions for the benefit of our students. If you would like to become a governor, then please complete the attached form and return it to Miss R Standish, Clerk to the Governors by Monday 23 January at 4pm.

**NOMINATION FORM
FOR PARENT GOVERNOR
AT LONGBENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

I should like to nominate _____
as a parent-governor of Longbenton Community College

Signature of proposer: _____

Please print name of proposer : _____

Children of proposer currently attending Longbenton Community College:

Signature of seconder : _____

Please print name of seconder: _____

Children of seconder currently attending Longbenton Community College:

Signature of parent who is standing as a parent-governor : _____

Please print name of parent who is standing : _____

Children of parent who is standing for election currently at Longbenton Community College:

**Nomination forms should be returned to Miss R Standish, Clerk to the Governors,
via the School Office by 4pm on Monday 23 January 2012**